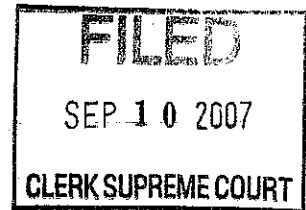


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA



IN SUPPORT OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
PEW COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, at any given time, approximately 5000 Iowa children are living in foster care; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Judicial Branch is committed to moving children in foster care to safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible through the efficient and effective handling of child dependency cases; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Supreme Court commends the work of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, a national, nonpartisan group dedicated to accomplishing sweeping broad-based reforms of our nation's child welfare system to improve the lives and future prospects of children in the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, the Pew Commission issued a series of recommendations for strengthening court oversight of child welfare cases, emphasizing four general strategies:

- Courts should adopt performance measures to better inform judicial decision-making and to improve the courts' ability to hasten children's movement out of foster care and into safe, permanent homes.
- Courts and agencies on a local and state level should collaborate to bring about lasting improvements in the child welfare system on behalf of children.
- Courts and states should adopt measures to enable children and parents to participate in their own court proceedings in a meaningful way.
- The chief justices and state court leadership must act as the foremost champions for children in their court systems, making sure that the Pew Commission's recommendations are enacted in their states.

~~NOW, THEREFORE,~~ the Iowa Supreme Court supports and adopts in concept the recommendations of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care; pledges to implement the Pew Commission's recommendations in the State of Iowa; and urges Congress to act on the recommendations of the Pew Commission regarding federal financing of the child welfare system.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2007.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Marsha Ternus
Marsha Ternus, Chief Justice

cc: ✓ Members of the Court
✓ Judicial Council
✓ State Court Administrator
✓ Director, Court Improvement Project